

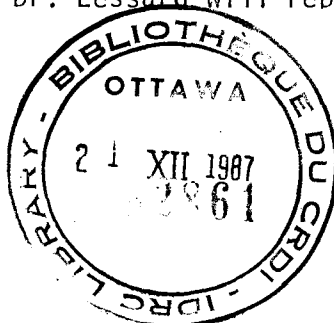
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE
Quebec City, June 21 - 22, 1971

1. It is over three months since the March meeting of the Board of Governors. During this time, the IDRC has moved vigorously toward launching its full programme. The Centre has sponsored or co-sponsored several seminars on development problems, has extended its outreach to many developing nations under the monies voted in our budget for project identification and preparation, and has enlarged its professional and administrative staff.

Appointments to Professional Staff

2. In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Board at its meeting in March, I will be placing before you today the recommendation that Dr. Bhekh Bahadur Thapa be appointed Vice-President of the IDRC. I have earlier circulated Dr. Thapa's bio-data to you and to all the other members of the Board. Several Board members have responded indicating their support for his appointment as Vice-President. Under our By-Laws, Dr. Thapa's appointment as Vice-President, if favourably acted upon by this Committee, would be formally ratified by the Board at its meeting in September.

3. I have appointed Dr. J.L.Gilles Lessard as the Associate Director for Forestry. Dr. Lessard will report to Mr. Joseph H. Hulse,



Programme Director for Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences. Dr. Lessard will hold responsibility for developing the Centre's programme in forestry research. For the present time, he will be located in Quebec City.

4. I have appointed Dr. Walter Mertens as Associate Director for Demographic Sciences. Dr. Mertens will report to Dr. George F. Brown, Programme Director for Population and Health Sciences. Dr. Mertens will hold responsibility for our research work in demography. He is a sociologist and demographer by training and has had extensive experience in Latin America. Dr. Mertens is located in Montreal and is working in conjunction with the faculty of the University of Montreal.

5. I have appointed Dr. Hugh Doggett as Associate Director for Plant Sciences and Farming Systems. Dr. Doggett will work under the direction of Mr. J.H. Hulse and will hold responsibility for the Centre's activities in plant science research and for research on improved farming methods. Dr. Doggett will be located in Saskatoon in conjunction with the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan.

6. I have appointed Mr. H. Arthur Vespy as the Centre Librarian. Mr. Vespy will work under the direction of Mr. John E. Woolston, Programme Director for Information Sciences, and will be responsible for developing the library resources of the Centre.

7. I have appointed Mr. Raymond J. Audet as the Centre's Comptroller. Mr. Audet will report to Mr. T. Hanley Bennett, the Treasurer.
8. I have appointed Dr. John Gill as a Senior Programme Officer in Family Planning holding responsibilities for family planning operations research, particularly delivery systems. Dr. Gill will work under the supervision of Dr. G.F. Brown.
9. I have appointed Dr. Aprodicio A. Laquian as a Senior Programme Officer for Social Sciences and Human Resources. Dr. Laquian will report to Mrs. Ruth K. Zagorin, Programme Director for Social Sciences and Human Resources, and will hold responsibility for developing Centre programmes that focus on the dynamic interaction between the large urban city and rural populations.
10. I have appointed Dr. Hubert J.J. Leblanc as Programme Officer in Social Sciences and Human Resources. Dr. Leblanc will hold responsibility for developing programmes in the general field of social sciences.
11. I have appointed Dr. Penny Estabrook as the Conference Coordinator for the Centre to work under the overall supervision of the Director of Administration, Mr. Edward J. O'Brien.

12. The following assistants have also been appointed:
Mr. Gerald R. Bourrier as Executive Assistant to the Director for Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences; Mr. Nantel Brisset as Executive Assistant to the Director for Social Sciences and Human Resources; Mr. Robert LeBlond as Assistant to the Director for Information Sciences, and Mr. Normand A. Asselin as the Special Assistant to the President.

Professional Consultants

13. During the period, 18 consultants were employed by the Centre on short-term contracts to assist with the development of our research programmes.

Projects

14. It has been customary in these statements to outline the project actions taken under my discretionary authority. Such projects are now reported to you as part of the project docket circulated to all Governors. You will find in that docket under Tab C the projects thus approved.

Workshops and Seminars

15. The Centre held a workshop of leading social scientists from North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia at Centre headquarters on May 14th-15th. The keynote paper for the workshop was given by Lady Jackson and the discussion ranged over a very wide set of topics related to the social science research requirements to promote development and the best

means of bringing support of social science research workers and institutions into international networks of common research endeavours.

16. The Centre was a co-sponsor with the International Rice Research Institute of a seminar on the research objectives and methodologies needed to assess more fully the several dimensions of consequences of the introduction into Southeast and South Asia of high-yielding varieties.

17. A short seminar was held at Centre headquarters in mid-June on grain storage and protection.

Patent Policy

18. At the March meeting, the Governors left responsibility to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the President for the development of a patent policy for the Centre. Discussions with the firm of Smart and Biggar, leading patent attorneys in Ottawa, has resulted in the recommendation that we take considerably more time before articulating a firm policy regarding patents and that in the interim, each situation be dealt with on an ad hoc basis that seems most suitable. The Centre has retained Smart and Biggar to review with us the patent implications of authorized projects, and to advise us on the best means of assuring that patent rights which might accrue as a result of research undertaken with Centre support will not be lost to the interest of developing countries. We are advised by our attorneys and our Secretary that until there is a greater understanding of the kind of patent problems that might arise from our assistance to

projects, it will be extremely difficult to develop a long-term, encompassing policy.

Public Information Office

19. The much heralded report by Hopkins, Hedlin on a public information programme for the Centre has been received and will be circulated to all Governors as soon as the translation is completed. The report contains nothing that is startling or arresting. In line with the report, we are actively seeking a Public Information Officer who has the experience and maturity to launch our information programme in both major languages of Canada. The identification of this person has taken much longer than I anticipated. However, I expect to make an appointment before September.

Brochure

20. After much discussion about the Centre's need for a publicity brochure that could be widely used around the world and yet would permit the Centre's programme activity to evolve unfettered by too many definitive statements, I have concluded that the release of such a brochure should await the establishment of our Public Information Office. At the present time, we have a brochure which could only be classed as 'OK' and, frankly, such a classification is not 'OK'. I have been reluctant to move to produce the brochure as I would like to be assured that whatever is produced will fit into the long-term public information programme of the Centre.

I regret the delay in this matter, but I think that the style set by the Centre in its earliest approach to the public will establish an image that will persist, and I do not wish to be premature in establishing this style.

Annual Report

21. The Annual Report for submission to Parliament is in hand and a draft has been forwarded to the Chairman of the Board for his perusal. The Auditor General's audit of the financial accounts of the Centre has been completed and the financial statements for the past year have been circulated to the Finance Committee by the Treasurer.

Human Resources Programme

22. In March the Board approved a Human Resources Development Programme. Under the first part of this programme, the Ph.D. scholarship grants will be announced on July 15th. Sixteen applications were received by the deadline on June 15th. The Selection Committee of Prof. A. Vicars, McGill University; Prof. Fraser Taylor, Carleton University; Vice-Dean G.J. Ouellette, Laval University; a fourth has yet to be appointed; (Mr. John E. Woolston will serve as the Centre representative on the Committee) have agreed to meet on June 28th and July 14th to screen the applications and make the final awards.

23. The second part of the programme that provides support for mid-career Research Associates has elicited over 260 requests for application

forms. Selection will be made in two stages, July 30th and August 30th.

24. The third part of the programme called for the appointment by this Committee of IDRC Research Fellows. I will place before you later the nomination of one candidate I consider eminently qualified for such an appointment, and at that time, I will ask for a discussion of other potential candidates.

Other International Activities

25. During past months members of the Centre staff have participated in many international meetings and conferences. The Centre has been represented in almost every major international activity relating to the application of science and technology for development. I think it is fair to say that the Centre is, in a small way, making its presence felt at the core of the international development community.